



Name of Property:	Hinchliffe Stadium
City, State:	Paterson, New Jersey
Period of Significance:	1932-1944
NHL Criteria:	1
NHL Theme:	II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements 4. Recreational activities
Previous Recognition:	2004 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context:	2009 <i>Civil Rights in America: Racial Desegregation of Public Accommodations in the United States</i> XXX. American Ways of Life E. Ethnic Communities XXXIV. Recreation A. Sports 2. Baseball

NHL Significance:

- Hinchliffe Stadium served as a Negro professional baseball venue and home field during a period in American history when the institutionalized practice of separate but equal facilities, as dictated by Jim Crow, was the norm. The stadium was built in 1931-32 as the Great Depression deepened and the need for an African-American sports facility arose.
- Hinchliffe Stadium hosted numerous Negro professional baseball games from its opening season in 1932 through 1944, and was a venue for regularly-scheduled Negro National League games featuring league-affiliated teams beginning in 1935, including NNL season opening games in 1936 and 1937. The NNL is considered by baseball scholars to be the premier Negro major league from the latter half of the 1930s to the 1940s.
- Hinchliffe Stadium is an exceptional example of a Negro professional baseball venue for its relatively long association with Negro professional baseball, particularly at its highest level of play within the Negro National League. Teams such as the New York Cubans and the Black Yankees played regularly at the stadium.

Integrity:

- Although the stadium is in a deteriorated state, it retains historic integrity to its original



construction in 1932 and to its historic association with Negro professional baseball throughout the 1940s.

- Although years of vacancy and vandalism have damaged the building, it remains one of the most intact, if not *the* most intact, of the few extant stadiums historically associated with Negro baseball.

Owner of Property: Paterson Board of Education, City of Paterson

Acreage of Property: 5.7 acres

Origins of Nomination: President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (Act) into law on March 30, 2009. This Act required the completion of a study regarding the preservation and interpretation of Hinchliffe Stadium that shall include an assessment of the potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL), as well as options for the preservation of Hinchliffe Stadium. The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (HPO) entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) and contracted for the NHL nomination in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Act using Urban History Initiative (UHI) funds.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Hinchliffe Stadium was identified in 2009 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the ten most endangered sites in the United States. Designation as an NHL will buttress the previous and continuing advocacy efforts by the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium for the property's preservation and adaptive re-use.
- Designation as an NHL will make the property eligible for additional funding sources for rehabilitation work.
- Designation as an NHL may encourage the inclusion of Hinchliffe Stadium in the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments: Mr. Hoyos asked that planting plans be added to the



nomination. Dr. Clark Hines asked why the stadium was built in Paterson, whether it was a historically black neighborhood, and who funded the construction of the stadium. The committee asked that this information be added to the nomination.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Seale moved, Dr. Allan seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 11/08/12):

Jeff Idelson, President, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York
 Sara R. Cureton, Director, New Jersey Historical Commission, Trenton, New Jersey
 Daniel D. Saunders, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State of New Jersey
 W. Scott Durham, Supervisor of Athletics, John F. Kennedy Education Complex
 Stephanie L. Cherry-Farmer, Senior Programs Director, Preservation New Jersey, Trenton, New Jersey
 Leonard Coleman, Chairman, Jackie Robinson Foundation, Former President, National League, Major League Baseball
 The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg and The Honorable Robert Menendez, U.S. Senators, New Jersey
 The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr., U.S. Congressman, 8th District, New Jersey

Advisory Board Recommendation:

